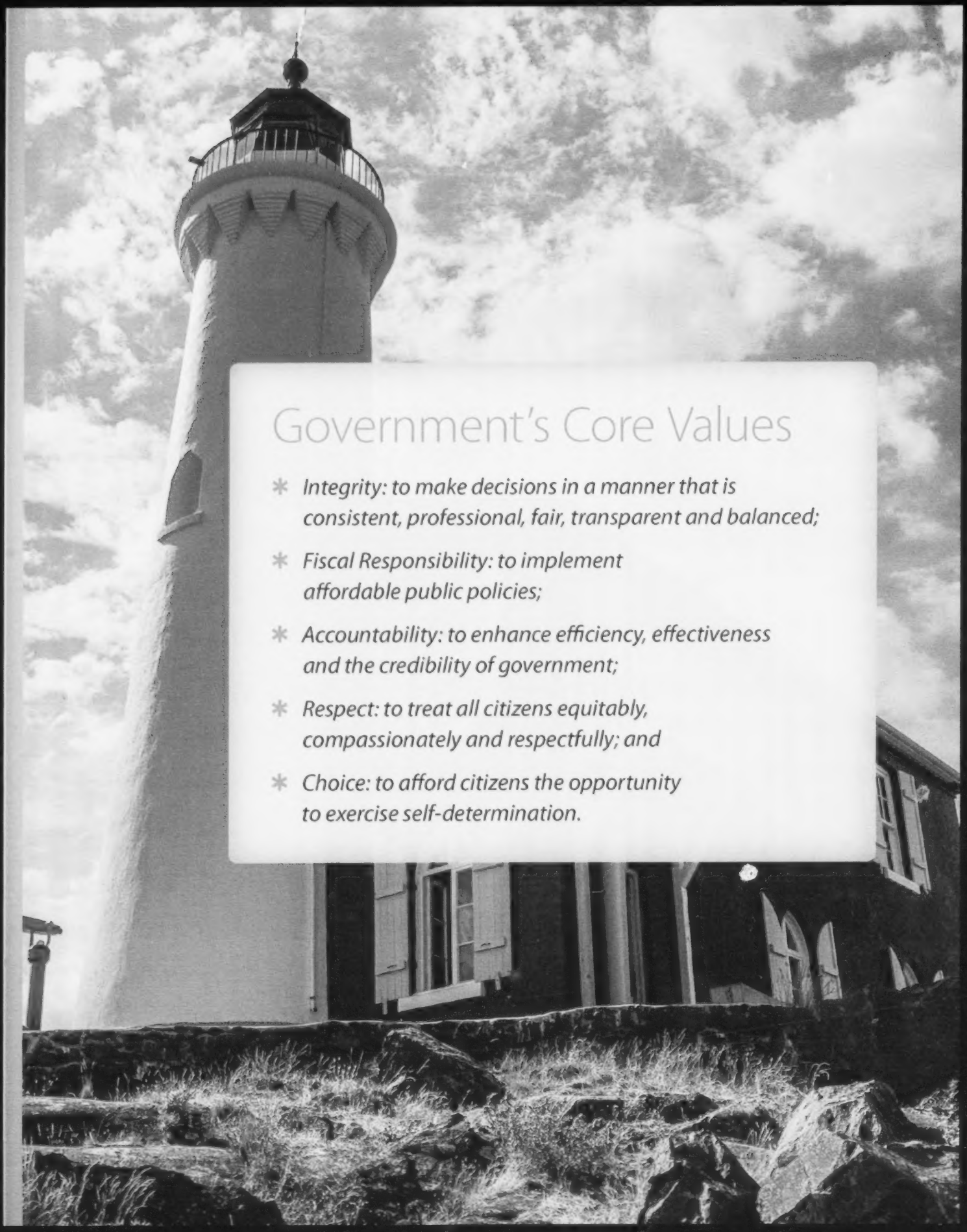
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

STRATEGIC PLAN

2013/14 – 2015/16

CANADA STARTS HERE

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Government's Core Values

* *Integrity: to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair, transparent and balanced;*
* *Fiscal Responsibility: to implement affordable public policies;*
* *Accountability: to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the credibility of government;*
* *Respect: to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully; and*
* *Choice: to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination.*

Contents

Letter from the Premier **2**

Jobs 4

Families 4

Openness 4

Our Economy **5**

Job Creation and Investment 5

Natural Resource Sectors 7

Knowledge-Based Sectors 13

Our Families **21**

Families First Agenda for British Columbians 21

Healthy Citizens 25

An Open Government **27**

Outcome Measures **28**

CANADA STARTS HERE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Letter from the Premier

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

As my government has prepared its balanced Budget 2013, including the detailed accounting information that provides British Columbians with transparency about our province's fiscal situation, I have been guided by an important principle: reliability.

Achieving a balanced budget – not just for 2013 but through to 2015/16 – fulfils a key commitment of my government. But its significance goes beyond even the importance of following through on our promise. By achieving this balance, my government has demonstrated that we do not back away from tough decisions. We have demonstrated our commitment to controlling and reducing government spending. And we have taken a disciplined approach to dealing with the many demands that are made every day on the provincial treasury – an approach that is fair, informed and balanced, and that, above all, is accountable to British Columbians for how we use their tax dollars.

Achieving a balanced budget was a purposeful choice of my government. And because we understand the need for confidence in our budget, we asked an independent, third-party expert to review and validate the revenue projections that are fundamental to our plans.

As for all governments, the option of continuing to operate in a deficit position was available. Many governments have chosen that path. The temptation to spend beyond our means confronts us all at times and, without discipline, we can succumb to tempting choices and accumulate large debt. The resulting debt can linger and constrain the choices of next generations of British Columbians.

I am determined to protect and preserve our province's triple-A credit rating. We remain one of only two provinces in Canada that has this top rating from both major rating agencies. It means we save taxpayers millions of dollars a year in the government's cost of borrowing. Every dollar we don't pay in interest is one we can invest in providing services to citizens or use in paying down the debt.

Our responsibility as a government is to develop our economy in an environmentally sustainable manner, while every possible measure is being pursued to draw investment and create jobs. We have developed an ambitious and realistic plan for the British Columbia economy, a plan that is clear about the path we are taking and involves citizens in our goal to make British Columbia the economic leader of Canada.

In the 17 months since we released ***the BC Jobs Plan***, there have been billions of dollars of new investment in British Columbia, along with the creation of thousands of jobs. Our Jobs Plan has clear targets that have guided our work – targets that include new and expanded mines, economic development agreements with First Nations, and training British Columbians for jobs now and in the future.

A key element of ***the BC Jobs Plan*** is our commitment to the development of a new industrial sector for the province – liquefied natural gas. In ***the BC Jobs Plan***, we promised to work with LNG export proponents to bring at least one LNG pipeline and terminal online by 2015 and have three in operation by 2020. And we were clear that we would maintain B.C.'s leadership on climate change and clean energy.

Guided by some of the strongest environmental laws in the world, we are making remarkable progress on these targets, including policy changes that foster growth and ensure power will be available to the sector.

The choices we have made have positioned us to seize the opportunity of a generation – an industry that can create thousands of new jobs and add one trillion dollars to our Gross Domestic Product.

Based on the level of investment from the private sector and our advanced negotiations with proponents, I was very pleased to announce that LNG revenues will support a new Prosperity Fund that will be used to pay down debt, support social services and improve affordability, bringing benefits that British Columbians can rely upon for generations to come.

Developing the potential of liquefied natural gas has been a key focus of government over the past year, but we have kept equal pace in pursuing every economic advantage for British Columbia, including our work to ensure British Columbians are at the front of the line for the new jobs being created.

Based on ***the BC Jobs Plan***, there will be one million job openings throughout our province between now and 2020 – 43 per cent of which will require people with trades and technical training. It is an enormous opportunity, and we must persevere so the benefits are enjoyed by B.C.'s people. The work our government has done over the past decade to transform our training and credential granting system has improved opportunities for students through credential transfer and recognition across all post-secondary institutions, the establishment of teaching universities, and improvements to the transfer system between community-based and technical education and degree programs. We have doubled the number of registered apprentices since 2001. Now, we are positioned to make even greater progress through our Regional Workforce Tables, sector training plans and our Skills and Training Plan.

Delivering on ***the BC Jobs Plan*** has been central to the work of ministries across government. The investment and jobs it helps to create in turn provide stable and reliable income for families.

I am proud to lead a government that delivers high-quality health care, education and social services to British Columbians. My government is working to ensure these services are available now for those who need them. Equally important is our commitment to ensuring the same high level of service will continue to be available for our children and grandchildren, and that British Columbians are confident and can rely upon the knowledge that these services are sustainable.

Our commitment to controlling government spending has been inspirational to our Families First Agenda. We have introduced important changes to income-assistance programs and we are implementing an aggressive agenda to bring timeliness to our justice system. We have taken an innovative approach to labour bargaining, by finding efficiencies that generate savings and, in turn, fund modest wage increases for the public service.

Health care has remained a priority for our government. And even within the context of controlled government spending, we have increased the health-care budget by $6.9 billion since 2001, made investments in new physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, and increased the numbers of operations and diagnostic tests.

We have also continued to make significant investments in infrastructure, building new hospitals, long-term care facilities, new and innovative learning environments at both K to 12 and post-secondary facilities, and social housing in every corner of the province. These projects have been part of our larger plan for infrastructure investments that include four-laning of the Trans Canada Highway from Kamloops to Alberta, replacing the George Massey Tunnel, construction

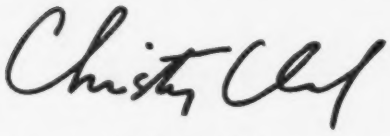
of the South Fraser Perimeter Road and construction of the new Evergreen Line for rapid public transit. We also continue to prepare for the province's future power needs by making investments in projects that include construction of the Site C dam.

As you read through this Strategic Plan, I invite you to learn more about other important government initiatives, including E.R.A.S.E Bullying, a program that is particularly close to my heart.

I believe government can never rest. Our society is changing. British Columbians have different needs depending on where they live and the stage of their life. My government is ever alert to the need to adapt to citizens' needs, even when it includes making tough choices.

Our government has set ambitious goals and we are carrying out detailed plans to achieve them.

We are focused on delivering the services British Columbians need, and meeting the expectations of a society that wishes not only for its own well-being, but for that of generations to come. That is work we do together with all of you.



Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

Three Priorities to achieve excellence for British Columbians

Jobs

A government that is focused on job creation and investment in the province.

Families

A government that works continuously to improve social programs that support families of every description, and improve the lives of British Columbians.

Openness

A government that supports job creation and families on the basis of open engagement with citizens.

Courtesy of Nexen

Our Economy

Job Creation and Investment

Between now and 2020, B.C. will see one million job openings, and almost half of them will require trades or technical training.

This job creation is supported by ***Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan***. Our plan is built on the natural, strategic and financial advantages of British Columbia – our location as Canada's gateway to Asia, our multicultural population, our world-class infrastructure, our strong balance sheet and low-tax environment, our natural resource advantages, and our highly skilled labour force.

The BC Jobs Plan is founded on three pillars:

1. Working with employers and communities to enable job creation across British Columbia.
2. Strengthening our infrastructure to get our goods to market.
3. Expanding markets for B.C. products and services, particularly in Asia.

Across government, work has focused on meeting the targets that were set out in ***the Jobs Plan*** and its related sector strategies. Since the launch of the Plan, billions in new investment and thousands of new jobs have been added to the economy of British Columbia. Eight of 19 targets have already been met, and the remaining targets are on track to be met as promised.

The lead ministry for delivery of ***the BC Jobs Plan*** is the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training. To accomplish the goal of seizing economic opportunities, the ministry works to:

- Open and expand priority international and domestic markets for B.C. goods and services, and attract and facilitate new investment to grow B.C. priority sectors.
- Develop B.C. regions and key industries to their full economic potential.
- Enhance competitiveness for small business by streamlining regulatory requirements and processes, and providing easier access to government programs and supports.
- Ensure that B.C. has enough skilled, highly productive workers to meet the needs of our growing economy.
- Promote safe and healthy workplaces and ensure that employers, workers and unions understand and apply B.C.'s labour laws.
- Promote labour stability and protect workers, by balancing the interests of employers and workers.
- Support B.C.'s tourism industry in being globally competitive and sustainable.

To accelerate our work to build new markets, in this planning period we will launch a new, integrated organization that will partner with Canada, the business community and educational institutions to make Vancouver and Canada's west coast the hub for Asian and South Asian corporate offices and investment activity.

Through ***the BC Jobs Plan***, eight areas in the natural resource, knowledge-based and infrastructure sectors of the economy are targeted with specific growth measures.

Natural Resource Sectors

While our economy continues to diversify in British Columbia, natural resources remain our backbone. We are proud of that.

Among the many assets we bring for vibrant trade with emerging economies, our natural resources continue to enjoy high demand, in turn supporting well-paying jobs for British Columbians.

Development of the natural resource sectors in British Columbia is based on our commitment to our world-leading environmental protection laws. While there is always tension between the need to protect the environment and the need to grow our economy and create jobs, our government embraces this dynamic. Our commitment to environmental protection is clearly demonstrated through our global leadership on climate change and clean energy, our protection of species at risk, expansion of parks in British Columbia, and the increased rigour of our environmental assessments.

One aspect of potential resource development has emerged as an area of concern for British Columbians – the shipment of heavy oil.

We have taken a strong position on new proposals for heavy oil pipelines in British Columbia. Our aggressive cross-examination of the Northern Gateway Pipeline proposal at the National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel hearings is guided by five clear principles that all new heavy oil pipeline proposals must meet: a completed environmental assessment review, world-leading marine- and land-oil spill prevention and response, First Nations participation and a fair share of project benefits are the non-negotiable tenets of our approach.

To support the continued and sustainable development of our natural resources, we are continuing to make important investments in new electricity transmission infrastructure. The Northwest Transmission Line will open new areas to mining, while allowing northwest communities currently relying on diesel generators to switch to cleaner electricity. When completed in 2014, it will also provide a secure interconnection point for clean-generation projects. The Dawson Creek/Chetwynd Area Transmission Project, also expected to be finished in 2014, will serve the South Peace region, benefitting the regional economy by making clean power available to natural gas and other industrial customers, as well as residents. And we continue to fully support the development of Site C dam, where work is underway to prepare for a harmonized environmental assessment with the federal government.

Facts about global LNG:

* LNG is a natural gas which has been cooled to keep it in a liquid form.
* It is a non-toxic, odourless, non-corrosive and less dense than water. It is a stable, low-risk fuel. If it spills, LNG will warm, rise and dissipate into the atmosphere.
* LNG, unlike natural gas in a gaseous form, can be shipped overseas and has been safety used and transported around the world for 50 years.
* Between 2000 and 2009, the volume of LNG traded, on an annual basis, increased by 77.3 per cent.
* The largest growth potential moving forward exists in the Asia Pacific market, specifically in Japan and South Korea. China and India are also competing for additional natural gas supply.

Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas

On February 8, 2013 government released the updated LNG Strategy. This marked the one-year anniversary of the original strategy, where our government identified clear standards for our work to develop this important sector. Most importantly, we committed to three key principles to guide LNG development:

- Keep B.C. competitive in the global LNG market.
- Maintain B.C.'s leadership on climate change and clean energy.
- Keep energy rates affordable for families, communities and industry.

In just 12 months, the government has made remarkable progress on all three goals, and we are now working closely to further project development with industry proponents. Since last year, over $6 billion dollars in investments have been made to acquire upstream natural gas assets and execute strategic corporate acquisitions, including joint-ventures that will anchor the development of pipelines and LNG plants in B.C.

Based on the level of industry commitment and investment, our government is now establishing the British Columbia Prosperity Fund. Revenues generated by the Liquefied Natural Gas sector will be designated to this fund, ensuring British Columbia families can benefit from the prosperity created by natural gas. The main focus of the fund will be to reduce provincial debt. We will also target measures to improve social services and to make life more affordable for families.

Our work to develop this new sector for British Columbia is taking place in a co-ordinated fashion on several fronts.

To ensure British Columbians are at the front of the line for every one of the tens of thousands of jobs this opportunity will create, we are undertaking a Labour Market Partnership project to assess the employment needs of the sector and ensure our training opportunities are aligned. We will subsequently lead the development of a comprehensive workforce strategy and action plan, with the continued support of industry, training authorities and educational institutions. We will release this action plan in the coming weeks, so British Columbians are trained in time with the skills necessary to fill these jobs.

British Columbia is a clean energy leader for a reason.

We are the first jurisdiction in North America to become carbon neutral across our provincial public sector and our carbon tax has proven to influence positive change with the reduction of provincewide greenhouse gas emissions. This leadership is guiding the development of B.C.'s LNG industry.

Since the release of ***the BC Jobs Plan***, we have been in discussions about power supply requirements with LNG proponents. Government remains committed to clean energy as part of the solution, while flexibility is required to address important business decisions that need to be made. We are confident solutions will be found and, over the next year, power supply arrangements between industry and BC Hydro will be reached. With a commitment to clean energy, the use of the best technology, and the best climate action policies, B.C.'s LNG industry will meet new standards of environmental responsibility.

The fight against climate change is a global issue. By exporting natural gas, B.C. will supply growing markets with a cleaner energy alternative compared to higher emission sources like coal and diesel. B.C.'s natural gas is also expected to replace the use of nuclear power in other areas of the world.

In February 2013, we will host Canada's first international Liquefied Natural Gas conference under the theme, "Fueling the Future: Global Opportunities for LNG in B.C." We are bringing together industry experts, learning institutions, training authorities, First Nations, community leaders and other stakeholders to discuss market opportunities, technology and skills development.

Our progress in the last year is the foundation for our plan in coming years:

* Significant investments in B.C.'s natural-gas sector, with approximately $6 billion to prepare and accelerate the province's growth prospects, and an additional $1 billion to further LNG proposals.
* Major LNG proponents have come forward with plans to build an export operation, with five large projects proposed right now. When the LNG Strategy was released last year, there were only two facilities proposed for development.
* A workforce strategy and action plan is underway with the leadership of government and the guidance of industry and training authorities. This strategy will ensure British Columbians will be trained with the skills to fill tens of thousands of jobs created from LNG construction and operation.
* Power supply discussions with proponents are moving forward, with the government of B.C. focused on having the cleanest LNG industry in the world. In July 2012, government updated the Clean Energy Act to ensure a reliable, timely and cost-competitive option of gas-fired electricity generation could be used to meet the large power demands of LNG industry.
* Actions have been taken to protect residential ratepayers and to ensure hydro rates for industry remain competitive. LNG proponents will be required to contribute capital for any new power infrastructure built. Government also amended its self-sufficiency policy so BC Hydro can mitigate rate increases by planning electricity supply against average-water availability, instead of critically low water levels.
* The global attention on B.C.'s LNG potential will be the highlight of an international conference in Vancouver in February 2013. The theme, Fuelling the Future: Global Opportunities for LNG in BC, highlights the province's emerging role as an energy powerhouse that will serve Asia Pacific markets with a stable, long-term supply of natural gas. Multiple panel discussions will focus on topics such as global market opportunities; workforce and skills planning; LNG as a transportation fuel, and more.

Forestry

Our forests have built and sustained British Columbia's families and rural communities. Forests are a cornerstone of our economy, directly employing over 56,000 in 2012 and exporting goods totalling $10.2 billion.

The BC Jobs Plan Forest Sector Strategy was developed on the six priorities outlined in the report of the Working Roundtable on Forestry:

- A commitment to using wood first.
- Growing trees, sequestering carbon, and ensuring that land is available from which to derive a range of forest products.
- Creating a globally competitive, market-based operating climate.
- Embracing innovation and diversification.
- Supporting prosperous rural forest economies.
- First Nations becoming partners in forestry.

With the strategy, government committed to a review of log export policies. The results of that review were the basis for a change to the fee structure for exporting some logs, and a change to the fee schedule for logs such that the fee for low- and mid-grade logs exported from the mid-coast timber supply area will be reduced. These and other measures will stimulate harvesting activity in remote areas, particularly important in the face of experts' predictions that we are poised for considerable growth in this sector.

In Fall 2012, government released ***Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan*** that represents next steps in our ongoing response to the mountain pine beetle.

This Action Plan was in direct response to the Special Committee on Timber Supply, an all-party committee that was appointed in May 2012 to investigate and make recommendations to address the loss of mid-term supply in the central Interior due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Since 2001, the B.C. government has invested over $884 million on forest management and economic development in the mountain pine beetle-impacted areas, to assist forestry-dependent communities diversity their economic base. This Action Plan focuses on reforestation, forest inventory, fuel management and intensive and innovative silviculture. New funding is increasing

the area for re-inventory from 18 million hectares to 35 million hectares, with the highest priority being the areas impacted by the mountain pine beetle.

Mining

British Columbia is a national leader in mining and mineral production. We are the nation's single largest exporter of coal, the largest producer of copper, and the only producer of molybdenum. We also produce significant amounts of gold, silver, lead, zinc and more than 30 industrial minerals.

An ambitious goal for development of eight new mines and expansion of nine existing ones by 2015 was set in ***the BC Jobs Plan*** and reinforced in ***British Columbia's Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy***. The strategy also defined six key steps to increase investment, expand job creation, develop new economic opportunities, protect the environment and build a better quality of life for future generations.

Meeting this goal will support the creation of 5,000 new direct and indirect jobs in British Columbia. These new and expanded mines will bring more than $150 million annually in government revenue.

Meeting this goal is what our government is doing, with three new major mines having started production, three more receiving permits and starting construction, and the approval of five major expansions of existing mines.

The BC Jobs Plan set a target for reducing the backlog of mineral exploration permits by 80 per cent by August 2012, along with targets for reducing the backlog in land and water authorizations. These reduction targets were achieved, and government has invested an additional $7 million to make sure the systems are in place to ensure the backlog reduction is sustained.

Like LNG, mines require a considerable amount of power. The Northwest Transmission Line will open new areas to mining, while allowing northwest communities currently relying on diesel generators to switch to cleaner electricity. When completed in 2014, it will also provide a secure interconnection point for clean generation projects. The Dawson Creek/Chetwynd Area Transmission Project, also expected to be finished in 2014, will serve the South Peace region, benefitting the regional economy by making clean power available to natural gas and other industrial customers, as well as residents.

AgriFoods

In British Columbia, the agrifoods sector provides more than 61,000 jobs and generates over $10.5 billion a year in provincial revenues. We have the most diverse agrifoods industry in Canada.

In this planning period, government will be guided by ***B.C. AGRIFOODS: a strategy for growth*** to ensure we seize new opportunities that are emerging for this sector in British Columbia.

This five-year strategy will lead the sector to becoming a $14-billion-a-year industry by 2017, and outlines the plan we are executing to encourage innovation, strengthen our domestic and international markets, and ensure a sustainable future for farmers, ranchers, fishers and other food producers.

One of the immediate actions taken under the B.C. Agrifoods Strategy was to provide British Columbia's high-tech greenhouse vegetable and floriculture growers with $7.6 million in carbon tax relief, allowing producers to focus on maintaining their competitive edge.

B.C.'s Agrifoods Advantage

By 2030, Canada will be one of only a handful of countries exporting more food than it imports. That means growing opportunities for B.C.

* The province is recognized globally for its high-quality food safety standards.
* Markets in the U.S. and the U.K. are well-established, while markets in China, South Korea and India are emerging.
* Shipping costs are lower, due to our proximity to Asia.
* Our agrifoods sector is adaptable and resilient with a modern infrastructure.
* It's also the most diverse in Canada with over 200 agriculture and 100 seafood species, a world-renowned wine industry and a growing array of high-quality, high-value niche products.

The Growing Forward 2 agreement, finalized in September 2012, continues our government's tradition of ensuring the voices of B.C. farmers, seafood harvesters, and processors are heard in Ottawa and that B.C.'s families and the communities that form our agrifoods sector receive appropriate attention and resources from the Federal Government.

The agreement will provide key risk management programming to producers who suffer weather related losses, as well as business development programs that reward ideas and help turn them into new dollars for farms and businesses.

Our Buy Local program is investing $2 million to help B.C. producers and processors promote their products to British Columbians. The funding supports local businesses and organizations as they launch or expand their marketing campaigns, and allows B.C.'s diverse food industry to use customized promotions specific to their market and needs.

British Columbia typically exports about $2.5 billion worth of agrifoods a year to more than 140 countries, and we will continue our targeted efforts to build trade with growing pacific economies. The Agrifoods Strategy is built on our international reputation for high-quality, high-value products, and our partnership with industry to reach new markets is getting results.

B.C. has set record exports to China in each of the last two years through a strategic approach that builds relationships with stakeholders there, and introduces them to the quality of B.C. foods.

Knowledge-Based Sectors

British Columbia is home to a vibrant community of knowledge workers, and our economy benefits from the progress and success in every corner of this sector. British Columbia is recognized as an innovative, talent-rich jurisdiction. We are globally recognized for clusters in clean technology, information and communication technologies and wireless, digital and screen-based media, and health and life sciences. And we are a location magnet for highly mobile high-tech talent.

British Columbia's technology workforce continues to expand due to strongly linked entrepreneurial and regional networks, world-class post-secondary institutions, technology acceleration and commercialization programs and regional industry clusters, both emerging and mature. These networks also help integrate technology into other sectors, which encourages innovation and creates demand for new technology products and services.

Technology, Clean Tech and Green economy

British Columbia's technology sector provides jobs for more than 84,000 people and includes nearly 9,000 established companies along with some 18,750 emerging companies.

Our government's vision for the technology sector in this province is to be a recognized leader for developing and growing innovative technology companies, and a destination for technology investment.

Our government has developed B.C.'s Technology Strategy to create and support new opportunities. Through post-secondary education and investments in research and technology, we strive to maximize return on investment, build vibrant communities and deliver value for British Columbians.

The technology sector includes four sub-sectors that are the focus of government's attention:

- Clean technology includes power generation, energy efficiency, transportation and industrial processes. British Columbia's commitment to continued leadership on climate and energy policies helps to foster innovation and growth in this sub-sector.
- Information and communication technologies (ICT) and wireless comprise more than 6,000 companies undertaking software publishing, computer manufacturing and systems design, engineering services, and wired and wireless communications. B.C. has more than 500 wireless technology businesses alone.
- Health and life sciences companies produce medical devices, biopharmaceuticals, bio-products and process innovations. B.C.'s biopharmaceutical cluster alone comprises more than 90 companies.
- Digital and screen-based media companies include more than 600 firms involved in areas like interactive design; digital entertainment and games; digital film, animation and special effects; mobile content and applications; and e-learning.

B.C. Creative Futures

A key area of focus for the government over the past several months and into the foreseeable future will be to ensure we are doing all we can, in a balanced fashion, to support the creative industries. We are pursuing a three-part strategy – called B.C. Creative Futures – to support sustainable, long-term success for the province's creative sector:

PART ONE: ARTS ENGAGEMENT FOR CREATIVITY – BC ARTS COUNCIL

By encouraging young British Columbians to think creatively through greater engagement with the arts, B.C. Creative Futures will nurture emerging creative leaders and help develop a future workforce of collaborative, innovative thinkers. With the BC Arts Council (BCAC), an independent agency supporting artists and cultural organizations throughout the province, our government will deliver new and expanded existing programs to support the strategy.

BCAC's $5.25-million share of the funding, plus additional financing from our government, will increase council's support from the B.C. government from $16.8 million in 2012-13 to a record level of $24 million in 2013-14.

PART TWO: STRATEGIC VISION – CREATIVE BC

Supported by the B.C. government, Creative BC will work with creative industries in the province to develop and implement a broad strategy capitalizing on the sector's strengths and identifying new opportunities for the future. Creative BC will work with film and TV, digital media, music, publishing and other components of the creative economy.

Government is providing $1 million to Creative BC for research, development and international marketing.

As an independent, non-profit society combining services previously available through separate agencies, Creative BC will engage government and the creative industries in a fresh partnership. Creative BC will begin operations in April 2013.

The B.C. government is helping to build a new visual, media and design facility at Emily Carr University of Art + Design's Great Northern Way Campus – a facility that supports the BC Creative Futures strategy for a strong creative economy in British Columbia.

B.C. is more successful than other Canadian jurisdictions in attracting venture capital. In 2011, B.C. ranked third among provinces for venture capital invested ($226 million in B.C. companies), and second for venture investment per capita ($49.52). Government will continue to support venture capital programming for small businesses from "angel investors" – entrepreneurial investors who fund start-up and growth companies – as well as expansion capital from fund managers working with the B.C. Renaissance Capital Fund.

A strong technology sector will benefit from government's ongoing work toward our target of providing high-speed connectivity to 97 per cent of British Columbians. We are nearly one third of the way to our target for additional cellular coverage along highways; 181 schools have had their Internet connections upgraded to high-speed fibre-optic cables.

Tourism

British Columbia is one of the premier tourism destinations in the world. We have it all here, and current projections place tourism industry revenues at $15.1 billion for 2013/14 and $16.1 billion for the 2014/15 fiscal year.

Maintaining B.C. as a strong destination of choice is a key component of the government's goal of having tourism revenues grow to $18 billion by the end of 2016.

The traveler economy generates over $3 billion in export revenue annually. Tourism affects every region of the province and is part of the economic fabric of each and every community. B.C.'s tourism industry grew 1.2 per cent in 2011, generating $6.5 billion of GDP and employing approximately 127,000 people, translating to roughly one out of every 15 people employed in the province.

Consistent with ***Gaining the Edge: A Five-Year Strategy for Tourism in British Columbia***, we have adapted our global tourism market approach to ensuring a strong and sustainable tourism sector by creating Destination BC, a new tourism marketing Crown corporation commencing operations in April 2013. Destination BC will focus on attracting visitors from priority markets and increasing revenue per stay. Its activities will include:

- Marketing British Columbia as a tourism destination domestically, nationally and internationally.
- Promoting the development and growth of the tourism industry in British Columbia to increase revenue, employment and economic benefits.
- Enhancing public awareness of tourism and its economic value to British Columbia.
- Supporting the tourism industry: providing support for regional, sector and community tourism marketing; providing leadership in tourism marketing and product development; supporting training and development related to tourism marketing.
- Supporting visitor services.
- Conducting tourism marketing research.

Canada's Approved Destination Status with China is a critical asset in increasing the number of visitors from this market. Other emerging markets such as India and Mexico are also promising.

We are working with partners across government to create an investment climate that promotes innovation and sustainability for the tourism sector, including analysis of supportive taxation regimes, an appropriate regulatory environment, and maximizing the economic potential of Crown assets.

We are striving to identify and advance common tourism issues with federal, provincial and territorial governments. We are also facilitating access to Crown land for tourism development and programs, under the provincial "One Land Manager" integrated decision-making framework. And, we are fostering solutions to labour shortages in B.C.'s tourism workforce, critical to tourism growth and investment attraction.

Transportation

Our government is working to put families first through improved road safety, reduced congestion and improved air quality. Our modern and effective transportation network is the lifeblood of our economy, and we continue to meet significant milestones with well-designed and well-maintained transportation investments that support B.C.'s trade opportunities and contribute to our economic growth.

The Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy 2012–2020: Moving Goods and People targets $25 billion in new public and private-sector investment in transportation infrastructure to meet rising Asian demand for B.C.'s and Canada's products, beyond the $22 billion our government has already committed.

This investment will directly contribute to the goals of ***the BC Jobs Plan*** by creating at least 17,000 additional jobs by 2020.

Our government continues to invest in the Port Mann/Highway 1 Improvement (PMH1) Project to alleviate the worst traffic bottleneck in the province. When the $3.3 billion project is fully complete it will have created approximately 8,000 construction jobs.

More than 4,000 construction jobs have been created during construction of the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR), the eastern portions of which were also opened to traffic on December 1 of last year. We expect to see 7,000 long-term jobs in Delta and Surrey as a result of improved industrial development opportunities.

Recognizing how important the maintenance and rehabilitation of our existing highway systems are in protecting our investment and ensuring the safety of highway users, we will invest an additional $518 million in road and bridge surfacing, bridge rehabilitation, seismic retrofits and highway safety improvements over the next three years.

This past winter, our government began a multi-phase consultation process for the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project. Projects of this scale take time to plan and implement, and by starting now, we maximize the potential to make the best decisions moving forward.

Investing in rural communities continues to be a priority. Here are three examples of current projects this government is delivering on now:

- Cariboo Connector Program
- Highway 97 Winfield-Oyama Project
- Interior and Rural Side Roads Program

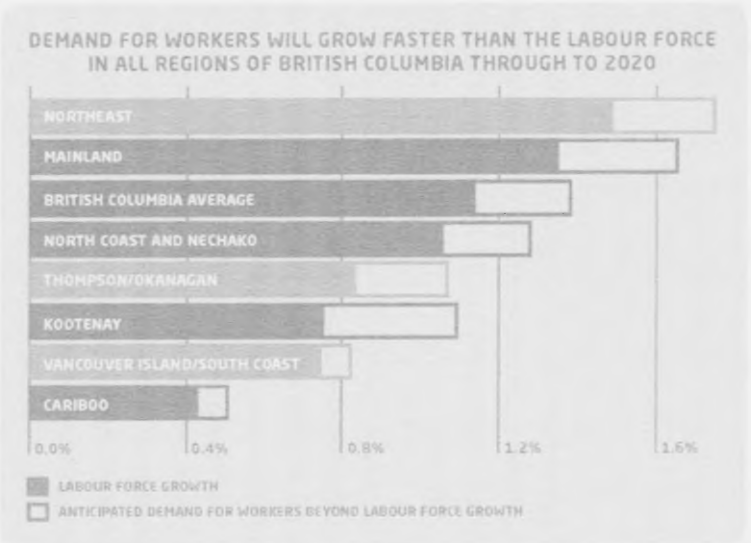
As well, the $14.3 million Clean Energy Vehicle Program announced in November 2011 has been extremely successful. Vehicle sales are increasing and infrastructure funding programs have been fully subscribed. This program has met our expectations and has been instrumental in raising public awareness and acceptance of electric vehicles as a viable transportation solution. We are proud that British Columbia has 2.1 times the Canadian rate of hybrid vehicle adoption.

Education and Skills Training

The bedrock of our success in growing the economy will be our work to ensure that British Columbians are at the front of the line for the one million new jobs forecast for the B.C. economy in the coming years.

We aim to create long-term jobs and investment in B.C. by focusing on eight key industry sectors: forestry; mining; natural gas; agrifoods; technology (including clean technology); tourism; transportation; and international education.

We are working with post-secondary institutions, the K to 12 sector and the Industry Training Authority to implement our Skills and Training Plan and create an even more effective skills and training system. This includes matching trades and technical program dollars to regional needs, piloting flexible training delivery models to reduce the time apprentices must spend away from the worksite, and introducing up to 15 regional apprenticeship coaches to increase apprenticeship completion rates. Our government has also invested $75 million to improve training facilities at Camosun and Okanagan Colleges and equipment at colleges across the province, and to ensure the availability of technical education teachers, particularly with trades certification.



The ***Skills and Training Plan*** represents a fundamental change to how we prepare British Columbians for the jobs of tomorrow. It is the result of engagement with industry, employers and post-secondary institutions. Our plan for a more effective skills and training system in British Columbia is built on four key areas of action:

1. Today's training is tomorrow's careers – promote dynamic opportunities in trades and technical fields and improve policies that support these choices.

- Developed an integrated plan to create multiple pathways to graduation and career preparation.
- K-12 sector target of a 50% increase in the number of graduates proceeding immediately from high school to a trades or technical program.
- Ensure students are better aware of trades and technical career opportunities.

2. Invest in and improve our training facilities and equipment, and ensure the availability of technical education teachers, particularly with trades certification.

- Extend partnerships between post-secondary institutions and industry through shared facilities, equipment and staff.
- We will also ensure the availability of teachers delivering trades and technical training, and help school districts co-ordinate regional sessions to review labour needs and opportunities.
- Address equipment and facility needs for trades and technical training through our existing capital envelope. We will be seeking partnerships with industry and others to ensure students have access to new, advanced technologies and equipment already available on worksites.

3. Get the right mix and quality of trades and technical programs and accelerating completion times and rates while maintaining the high standards required by industry.

- Ensure program dollars are matched to regional needs, and thereby ensure the right seats are available in right places. The solution does not lie in increasing funding.
- Be smarter about how program funding is aligned: ensuring it is correctly matched to labour market needs.
- Build on existing centres of excellence for mining, oil and gas and shipbuilding, creating hubs to further leverage our partnerships with industry and post-secondary institutions.

4. Align economic immigration selection to British Columbia's labour market needs.

- Improve our work with industry to address needs in high unemployment areas by recruiting workers from other provinces
- Conduct up to six industry-led recruitment missions and improved marketing efforts.
- Improve our recruitment of trades and technical workers from other countries, by committing to three international recruitment missions for 2012/13 for high-demand occupations

Our government has built this innovative and ambitious Skills and Training Plan on the foundation of our post-secondary and K-12 education systems.

Our government has made extensive investments in British Columbia's K-12, post-secondary and skills and training programs over the past decade. These investments are helping to ensure British Columbians are best-positioned and first in line to benefit from the opportunities being created.

In 2012/13, our government's block funding to school districts was a record $4.7 billion – a 26-per-cent increase since 2000/01 despite a drop in student enrolment of more than 66,000 students.

Since 2001, government has committed more than $4 billion to school capital and maintenance projects throughout B.C. Current major capital projects include Oak Bay High School replacement, Kitsilano Secondary replacement/renovation, and Belmont and Royal Bay replacement. We are also pursuing a significant engagement effort with British Columbians to modernize our education system in ways that put students at the centre of learning, reflecting input from experts like the Conference Board of Canada about the skills our students need to succeed.

We appointed a new Superintendent of Reading who is working with teachers in school districts across the province to improve reading skills, particularly for students in kindergarten to grade three.

As part of B.C.'s Education Plan, we are also continuing or conversation with educators on how we can change curriculum, assessment and graduation standards to best support students – now and in the future.

A significant focus for our government in the coming months will be pursuit of our goal of a 10-year agreement with the province's public-school teachers. If achieved, such an agreement will provide greater certainty and stability for all partners in the education system, especially students, teachers and parents.

Government invested more than $1.9 billion to support post-secondary education in 2012/13 and, over the past 10 years, we have boosted funding to operate our postsecondary institutions by 47 per cent.

Students in British Columbia pay just one-third of the actual costs of their education, and tuition in B.C. is the fourth-lowest in Canada, with increases capped at two per cent annually. Our investments have helped make British Columbia the home of world-class universities, colleges and institutes.

To encourage access and participation in post-secondary education and training, our government maintains a number of programs that provide supports to students and their families. These include disability support programs and increased weekly maximum student loan limits for students with a dependent, and a one student/one loan approach that supports students by extending lead time for defaults, shortening the amortization period and matching federal repayment assistance. In 2012/13, we introduced a student loan repayment assistance program for low-income families and those with significant family obligations.

In this planning period we are also introducing new measures that will make it easier for families of young children to save for post-secondary education.

The recent development of an Aboriginal post-secondary vision for the future comes after more than a year of successful engagement with Aboriginal leaders, communities and students. It includes more than $16 million for programs and financial assistance to help Aboriginal students succeed at their post-secondary studies.

Open educational resources and textbooks are under development and will provide students with easier, and more affordable, access to learning.

We are also continuing to make progress on the targets we set through our International Education Strategy. International education is the two-way flow of students, educators and ideas between countries, and its expansion is helping to create new relationships between British Columbia and other regions. We developed the strategy to position British Columbia and its residents to benefit even more from the social, cultural and economic opportunities that flow from international education activities. Through the strategy, we are achieving three goals:

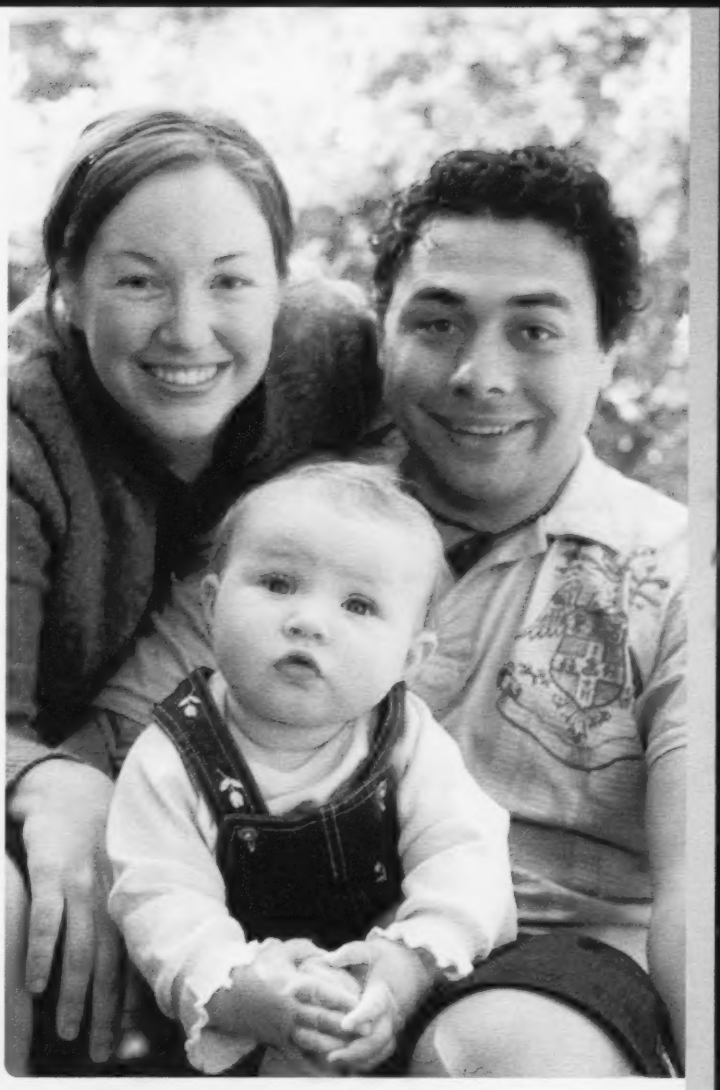
GOAL 1: Create a globally oriented education system in British Columbia.

GOAL 2: Ensure that all students receive quality learning and life experiences.

GOAL 3: Maximize the benefits of international education – social, cultural and economic – for all British Columbia communities, families and businesses.

British Columbia has been successful in attracting international students – overall, in 2009/10 there were 94,000 international students in B.C. and our latest data indicates this has grown to 100,700 in 2010/11 – a seven per cent increase.

Our Families



Families First Agenda for British Columbians

A wealthy economy allows government to be rich in support of citizens who need it. A growing economy that creates new sources of wealth allows government to do more. Our government's Families First Agenda describes how government is acting to improve life for families of all kinds, in every corner of British Columbia. It is built on three pillars:

Family affordability

Being a fiscally responsible government is essential to ensuring British Columbia thrives. Our government's work to keep taxes low and government spending under control has brought substantial benefits to B.C. families. Since 2001, government has reduced provincial personal income taxes for most taxpayers by 37 per cent or more and taken steps so that an additional 325,000 people no longer pay any B.C. income tax. In total, more than one million modest-income British Columbians pay no provincial income tax at all.

The minimum wage has been increased three times. Tax-savings measures are helping parents keep their children active in sports and the arts, helping seniors make renovations to remain in their homes, and helping first-time home buyers.

Our government has done a lot to make life affordable in B.C., and we know that raising a family is an exciting and, often, an expensive challenge. Last year, we made changes to improve the affordability of student loans and, in this planning period, we will introduce measures that make it easier to save for the post-secondary education of British Columbia's kids.

The costs associated with quality child care can place a burden on British Columbia families. We are launching balanced measures to improve accessibility of quality child care and help ease its expense, while we continue to ensure the highest quality of service.

To improve the affordability of child care and to assist families with the cost of raising young children, a new B.C. Early Childhood Benefit will be introduced effective April 1, 2015. The refundable tax credit will provide $146 million to approximately 180,000 families with young children. Families will receive a maximum benefit of $55 per month, or $660 annually, for each child under the age of six. This new provincial benefit will supplement existing federal benefits including the Canada Child Tax Benefit, the National Child Benefit Supplement and the Universal Child Care Benefit.

To improve access to child care, Budget 2013 provides $32 million over three years to support the creation of new child care spaces.

Supporting vulnerable families

Our duty to protect and care for B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens is one that our government takes very seriously. We have implemented improved supports that help all British Columbians share in the benefits as our economy continues to grow.

Our efforts are making a difference. Since 2003, British Columbia's child poverty rate has dropped by 45 per cent, with 75,000 more children lifted out of poverty. This represents the second-lowest child poverty rate in British Columbia since 1980.

For vulnerable children, we continue to strengthen services to ensure they are protected and can thrive. This work benefits from the recommendations we have received from the Representative on Children and Youth and includes re-establishing the director of child welfare and improving monitoring.

We recognize that families are facing challenges with accessing mental-health services for their children, and our government has a two-year action plan to review and strengthen child and youth mental health services. Key priorities of the action in the coming six months include:

- Improved access to services.
- Improving support for families to navigate the range of available services.
- Ensuring a consistent approach as children move between community mental health services and hospitals.

Early experiences shape brain development and are a critical foundation for all future learning, behaviour and health. Secure and stable relationships with caring adults are critical to development – the "serve and return" relationships between parents and children form the foundation of healthy development and are reinforced by relationships with the broader family and community. Early years programs and services benefit communities, society, and the economy as a whole.

In this planning period, we will introduce new measures to improve access to quality early childhood services and to improve affordability.

The foundation for this strategy will be the creation and implementation of a cross-ministry Early Years Office. Government is investing an additional $5 million over three years into strengthening the linkages between Early Childhood Development programs and child-care services. Our government is also investing $8 million over three years in new funding specifically in support of improving the quality of child care in British Columbia. In 2015/16, government will provide an additional $29 million to strengthen and enhance the overall quality of early years services, including child care. This strategy complements and builds on our efforts to improve affordability of child care.

We have introduced balanced reforms to income assistance policies that help vulnerable families attain better financial security, assist individuals with disabilities, and help people avoid the cycle of income-assistance dependence.

Over the past decade, our government has invested close to $3.2 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors, and families in communities throughout British Columbia.

In this planning period, we will be re-doubling our efforts to help those living with mental illness and addictions, and continue to implement Families First initiatives that support families who are living with a family member diagnosed with dementia.

We will continue the implementation of our new Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, implement a joint Advocacy Protocol with the Representative for Children and Youth, and advance the new Child Protection Response Model. We are introducing legislation to establish a seniors' advocate and bringing forward a plan to address elder abuse.

Social innovation and entrepreneurship in B.C. means leveraging resources from business, government and non-profits to achieve a common purpose. Our government was a partner in BC Ideas, an online competition powered by Ashoka Changemakers that asked British Columbians for innovative solutions to social issues in B.C. More than 460 ideas were submitted, resulting in 33 B.C. Ideas competition winners sharing over $270,000 in funding. The BC Social Innovation Council has provided recommendations that we are looking at and we continue to provide ongoing support for social innovation and entrepreneurship in B.C. through collaborative partnerships with other sectors.

Our government is very proud of our work on a new anti-bullying initiative called E.R.A.S.E. Bullying. E.R.A.S.E. Bullying is a comprehensive, 10-point strategy that is making British Columbia a leader in addressing and preventing bullying. We are rolling out a five-year, multi-level and provincewide training program for 15,000 educators and community partners to proactively identify and address threats. Safe School Coordinators are now in place in all 60 school districts. New online tools, including one to report bullying anonymously have been implemented.

In the coming months, we will establish a Provincial Advisory Committee and, with feedback from experts and, most importantly, from children and adults who have experienced bullying, we will maintain our leadership in this area with a goal of eliminating bullying from our schools and workplaces.

Through EmbraceBC, we will continue our work to ensure that we challenge racism however it manifests, and create inclusive, multicultural environments in our schools, our work places and our communities.

Safe communities, strong families

Ensuring that families are protected and feel safe at home and in their communities is an important part of putting families first in British Columbia. Our government is committed to measures that ensure safe communities and protect our sense of community. We have taken on crime and criminals through several targeted initiatives such as our guns and gangs program and our approach to anti-human trafficking training, and we have seen tremendous success.

Through the Families First Agenda, our government is providing protection to families and vulnerable British Columbians by implementing more measures to prevent crime and violence.

Perhaps most notably, we have continued to make progress on our commitment to modernize the justice system. In 2012, we released a green paper identifying challenges facing the justice system. An independent review of the justice system by Geoffrey Cowper followed, including review of legal aid services and British Columbia's charge assessment process.

Since that time, we have released the first of a two-part white paper on justice reform. In this planning period, we will build on a solid foundation for reform that includes:

- Appointment of nine judges in response to Cowper's recommendations, in addition to the nine judges appointed in February.
- A protocol agreement with the Office of the Chief Judge to work together on two court backlog reduction projects.
- A new Family Law Act – effective March 18, 2013 – landmark legislation that puts children's interests first and encourages families to solve disputes outside the courtroom.
- A new Justice Access Centre for Victoria – a one-stop citizen-focused centre for legal information and service, anticipated to open mid-2013.
- Expanded availability of child protection mediators to rural and remote communities to resolve child protection cases.
- Legislation that will lead to the formation of an innovative online civil resolution tribunal.
- Increased number of sheriffs serving British Columbians from 465 to more than 489 – resulting in a 15-per-cent increase over the past two years.
- Passed legislation to create a streamlined process for traffic fine violations that resolves disputes and frees up provincial court time.
- Launch of three justice data dashboards – applications that take raw data and transform it into a visual format, providing a user-friendly way to access information on B.C.'s justice system.
- Creation of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), a civilian-led agency, to investigate incidents of death or serious harm involving police – signalling a new era of increased transparency and accountability for policing in the province.

Healthy Citizens

Healthy Families

Even in tough economic times, we have honoured our commitment to protect health care. With a budget that is over $16.1 billion, investments in health care have increased by $6.9 billion since 2001. Today, more than 800,000 residents do not pay MSP premiums.

These new investments pay for new physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners who are treating patients throughout the province. Since 2001, our government has more than doubled the number of nursing spaces funded in this province, adding over 4,500 new student seats to train registered nurses, psychiatric nurses, specialty nurses, nurses re-entering the workforce, licensed practical nurses, and graduate nurses. The number of doctors graduating per year in British Columbia has doubled since 2001. These investments have also helped increase the number of operations and diagnostic tests to ensure patients are being diagnosed early and treated appropriately.

Our province has one of the healthiest populations in the world, and our government believes there is always more we can do to ensure we enjoy the greatest quality of life while keeping control of the costs of our health care system. We have launched Healthy Families B.C. and continue to implement new programs and services to promote healthy living and prevent chronic disease, in communities, schools and workplaces.

Our government's Innovation and Change Agenda builds on an already strong health system, and helps ensure that we are making the most of every dollar while continuing to provide top notch care to B.C. families. New approaches will allow us to make improvements for patients in rural and urban areas as well as improvements to primary health care that will have lasting benefits.

Major health care investments in coming years include hospitals, clinics, and residential and complex care buildings. Investments in equipment like CT scanners, MRIs, and lab and surgical equipment ensure the needs of B.C.'s growing population can be met. Key projects include:

- Surrey Memorial's new $512-million critical care tower, to be completed in 2014.
- Kelowna's $367-million Interior Heart and Surgical Centre, due to be completed by 2016.
- Children's and Women's Hospital Redevelopment, costing approximately $680 million, will roll out in three phases.
- North Island Hospitals Projects mean a forecast $600 million in spending on new facilities for the Comox Valley and Campbell River by 2017.
- Major projects at St. Paul's, Royal Columbian, Vancouver General Hospital, Royal Inland Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, Lakes District Hospital and Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital.

Through investments in public transit, cycling and other alternatives to single-occupant vehicles, our government is supporting B.C. families by encouraging a shift towards healthier communities, more active lifestyles and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

By combining buying power through Health Shared Services BC, health authorities have been able to improve the cost-effectiveness of their services, which will result in savings of nearly $200 million in the first five years.

The price of generic drugs will be reduced starting in 2013, providing significant savings to B.C. families when they fill the prescriptions that help them stay healthy.

Our smoking cessation program will continue on to help hundreds of thousands more British Columbians take the first step to quit smoking with free access to nicotine replacement products and PharmaCare coverage of prescription drugs for smoking cessation.

Over the next 20 years the number of seniors will increase by 80 per cent to an estimated 1.4 million. We are establishing a new Office of a Seniors' Advocate to ensure the needs of this diverse group are recognized and represented.

The new role of Minister of State for Seniors, created in September 2012, will help to ensure that citizens get the greatest benefit from the rich menu of cross-ministry supports that exist. These range from long-term residential care services, assistance with transportation and housing options and protection to issues like financial fraud and elder abuse.

Our innovative health-care system is responding to the changing needs of British Columbians and embracing new practices. In this planning period, we will work to establish a school of traditional Chinese medicine at a British Columbia post-secondary institution.

An Open Government

By embracing and modelling the principles of open and transparent government, we are advancing B.C.'s knowledge economy. This is how we have made British Columbian a national leader in making government data available to citizens.

Increased government accountability and transparency encourage innovation by ensuring government data and records are open and available to our citizens. Social media tools including Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr enable the public to learn more about our work and join conversations about the issues that matter most to them.

We continue to prioritize transparency, innovation and service delivery by continuing to release datasets on the DataBC website for public use; refining and improving our Open Information website, making FOI requests accessible to all; and engaging with citizens through the govTogetherBC website, our central resource for citizens looking for community engagement and government consultation opportunities.

The new DriveBC mobile site ensures the most up-to-date traffic information is at travelers' finger tips. This additional service extends DriveBC to more people, helping to make sure road users reach their destination safely and in a timely manner.

A more efficient and simpler application form for gaming grants has been implemented to make it easier for more than 5,500 community organizations to re-apply for the $135 million in funding available to support their important community work.

Citizens want more services delivered to them online and we are responding with ongoing enhancements to government websites.

By working with and consulting other ministries and organizations, including the Office of the Information Privacy Commissioner, we are working to implement several important new programs that will enhance opportunities for quality service delivery even further.

Continued work on improving and integrating telephone, in-person and online service delivery from a citizen-centric perspective will enhance service quality for citizens and save citizens time and money in their interactions with government.

The launch of a new BC Services Card has the potential to take public access to government services to a new level. At the same time, we will continue to ensure that the privacy of citizens is protected.

Mobile technology in the hands of public servants allows fast and flexible delivery of services. Office spaces are being redesigned to accommodate the needs of mobile workers, increase collaboration and bring down traditional silos between departments. We have developed a multi-year plan to support mobile workers in the future.

B.C.'s first auditor general for local government is now in place to support local governments by conducting performance audits and providing recommendations to find efficiencies that benefit local taxpayers.

Outcome Measures

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

- 4 completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations (economic and community development agreements and economic benefit agreements)
- 7 completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements-in-principle.
- 117 completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement program.
- 7 completed agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements and strategic engagement agreements.
- 12 capacity-building engagements with communities, youth and Aboriginal organizations.

Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology

- ≥ 200,936 total student spaces in public post-secondary institutions
- 2,936 credentials awarded to Aboriginal students in the public post-secondary system overall
- 50% increase of the total number of international students studying in British Columbia (113,430)
- ≥90% students satisfied with their education
- ≥90% of public post-secondary graduates reporting that their knowledge and skills are useful in their employment overall
- 340 participants engaged in the EmbraceBC Network to promote multiculturalism and challenge racism
- ≤ 8% of income is used to pay educational debt or student loan payment as a percent of income.

Agriculture

- Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry:
  - 2% growth in farm cash receipts
  - Maintain landed value
  - 2% growth in value of shipments for food and beverage
- 3950 Environmental Farm Plans completed cumulatively
- 250 Environmental Farm Plans completed annually
- 45,000 reductions in CO_2 or CO_2e emissions cumulatively, resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs.
- 11,000 reductions in CO_2 or CO_2e emissions annually, resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs
- 59 Agricultural Area Plans completed cumulatively.
- 7 Agricultural Area Plans completed per year
- 87% of routine (diagnostic) animal and plant samples completed within seven working days

Children and Family Development

- Total of 75 tele-mental health sessions.
- 61.0% of the Aboriginal children having to leave their parental home receive services delivered by Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, Aboriginal foster care providers or Aboriginal friends and family (Aboriginal children cared for through Aboriginal communities and providers).
- 60.5% of children in "out of home care" for at least two years experience no change in placement
- 80.4% of children in care under continuing custody orders grade level is as prescribed for their age

Citizens' Services and Open Government

- 97% timely response to media inquiries
- 92% compliance with statutory freedom of information response times
- 91% (185 of 203 First Nations) of First Nations with access to broadband facilities
- <1.65% of vacant office space

Community, Sport and Cultural Development

- 154 municipalities collecting at least 90 %of their current year taxes.
- 57.6% of British Columbians served by drinking water systems receive provincial funding to meet emerging treatment standards for the protection of drinking water quality.
- 93% of local governments taking action to reduce their carbon footprint and create more complete, compact communities.
- $1.1 billion annual motion picture production expenditures in British Columbia.
- 64% of B.C.'s major cultural organizations maintain or improve their net financial position compared to the previous year.
- More than 200 communities; 27 RDs Number of communities and regional districts (RDs) where cultural and artistic activities are supported with BC Arts Council funding greater than 25% of B.C. athletes on national teams

Education

- ≥97% Grade 8 to Higher Grade
- ≥97% Grade 9 to Higher Grade
- ≥92% Grade 10 to Higher Grade
- ≥87%Grade 11 to Higher Grade
- ≥70% of high school graduates enter a public post-secondary institution within three academic years of graduating from high school.
- 74% percent of children who enter kindergarten "developmentally ready" to learn
- ≥75% students in Grade 4 who meet or exceed reading expectations
- ≥73% students in Grade 7 who meet or exceed reading expectations
- ≥96% of students pass a Grade 10 language arts provincial exam
- ≥94% of students pass a Grade 12 language arts provincial exam
- ≥82% of students complete school within six years of first starting Grade 8
- 58% of Aboriginal students complete school within six years of first starting Grade 8

Energy, Mines and Natural Gas

- 3 new mines in operation.
- 4 expansions to existing mines.
- $4.8 billion annual investment in oil and gas exploration and development
- $2.8 billion annual investment in mineral exploration and mines
- $1.550 billion in direct government revenue from mining, and oil and gas
- Rate of 1.8 WorkSafeBC injuries at B.C. mines
- 24,724,511 GJ energy savings cumulatively achieved each year through energy utility and provincial conservation policies, programs, and regulations since 2007/08
- 85% or higher of clients belonging to priority groups in subsidized housing
- 6.0 residential tenancy dispute resolution requests per 1,000 British Columbia adult population (over age 19)
- Introduce three new options of enhanced access to funds in gaming facilities
- 95% of inspected/investigated liquor licenses in compliance

Environment

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia by 18%, relative to 2007 levels.
- Completion of four sector based policy, strategy or operational reviews for climate sensitive business areas.
- To have 96% or greater of water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving water quality trends.
- Eight air emission standards incorporating current Best Achievable Technology practices.
- Net improvement to changes in the conservation status of native species.
- 68% of product sub-categories in the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility fully covered by industry-led recycling programs in British Columbia.
- 20.9 million park visits and maintain or improve the park visitor satisfaction level of 80%.
- Complete 17 compliance inspections on certified projects.
- 80% of compliance reports submitted by Environmental Assessment Certificate holders are reviewed by staff and posted online within six weeks of receipt.
- 100% of application reviews in the B.C. environmental process completed within 180-days.

Finance

- To maintain Province's AAA credit rating.
- Balanced budget beginning in 2013/14.
- Ensure Public Accounts are in compliance with GAAP.
- Remain in the lowest four provincial ranking of corporate income tax rates.
- Remain in the lowest two for provincial ranking of personal income tax rates for the bottom and second-from-bottom tax brackets.
- Maintain percentage of amounts owed to government paid or collected at 94.45%.

Forests, Lands and Natural Resources

- Average number of days turnaround time for new mining Notice of Work (NoW) applications will be 60 days.
- Client satisfaction success score of 82.
- 85% of the regulated community's compliance with statutory requirements.
- Resource decision data quality index of 7.1.
- Nine Mountain Caribou herds in recovery.
- 15,000 hectares of open forest and grassland ecosystems in recovery mode.
- 8.3 million cubic metres of timber volume gain from silviculture investments.
- 92% dam safety inspection compliance.
- Three new mines in operation, four expansions to existing mines.
- 1.178 million in revenue derived from the use of Crown lands and natural resources.

Health

- 30% of communities completed healthy living strategic plans.
- 90% of general practitioner physicians providing chronic disease management.
- 80% of non- emergency surgeries completed within the benchmark wait time.
- 65% of physicians implementing electronic medical record systems.

Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

- $600 million foreign direct investment facilitated by Ministry programs.
- 65 international business agreements facilitated by Ministry programs.
- Zero net increase in number of government-wide regulatory requirements.
- 42,497 clients supported to access the labour market.
- 4,125 foreign workers and entrepreneurs nominated for permanent immigration through the Provincial Nominee Program.
- 96.5–98.5% of employers whose employment practices resulted in no complaints being registered with the Employment Standards Branch.
- More than 78% of Employment Standards Branch cases resolved within 180 days.
- 90% of employers satisfied with Employers' Advisers Office.
- $15.1 billion in provincial tourism revenues.

Justice and Attorney General

- Public release of data sets:
  - Community Safety and Crime Prevention – 5
  - Corrections – 11
  - Court Services – 35
  - Criminal Justice – 4
  - Emergency Management BC – 5
  - Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles – 10
  - Policing and Security Programs – 10
- 17 binding British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards approved for implementation.
- 103 days days between filing an application to obtain or change an order and when the order is issued on a family matter in Provincial Court.
- 216 days from the date a file is opened in Provincial Court to the date of the first substantive appearance
- 420 days from the date a file is opened in Provincial Court to the date of the trial
- 81 days time to conclude Provincial criminal cases (Adult and Youth).
- 150 days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime.

- 15 days from receipt of a complete Disaster Financial Assistance evaluator's report until the claim has been adjudicated and closed.
- Police-reported crime rates in British Columbia (Criminal Code offences per 1,000 persons)
  - violent crime–13.2
  - property crime–42.5
  - other crime – 15.6
  - overall crime rate – 71.3
- Crime severity indices:
  - Violent crime – 85.4
  - Non-violent crime – 85.9
  - Youth crime – 54.6
  - Overall – 85.8
- Percentage of adult offenders who are not re-convicted in B.C. within two years of release from custody, commencement of community supervision, or active community supervision:
  - Community Corrections – 77.5
  - Custody – 49.5
  - Overall rate of non-reoffending – 73.0

Social Development

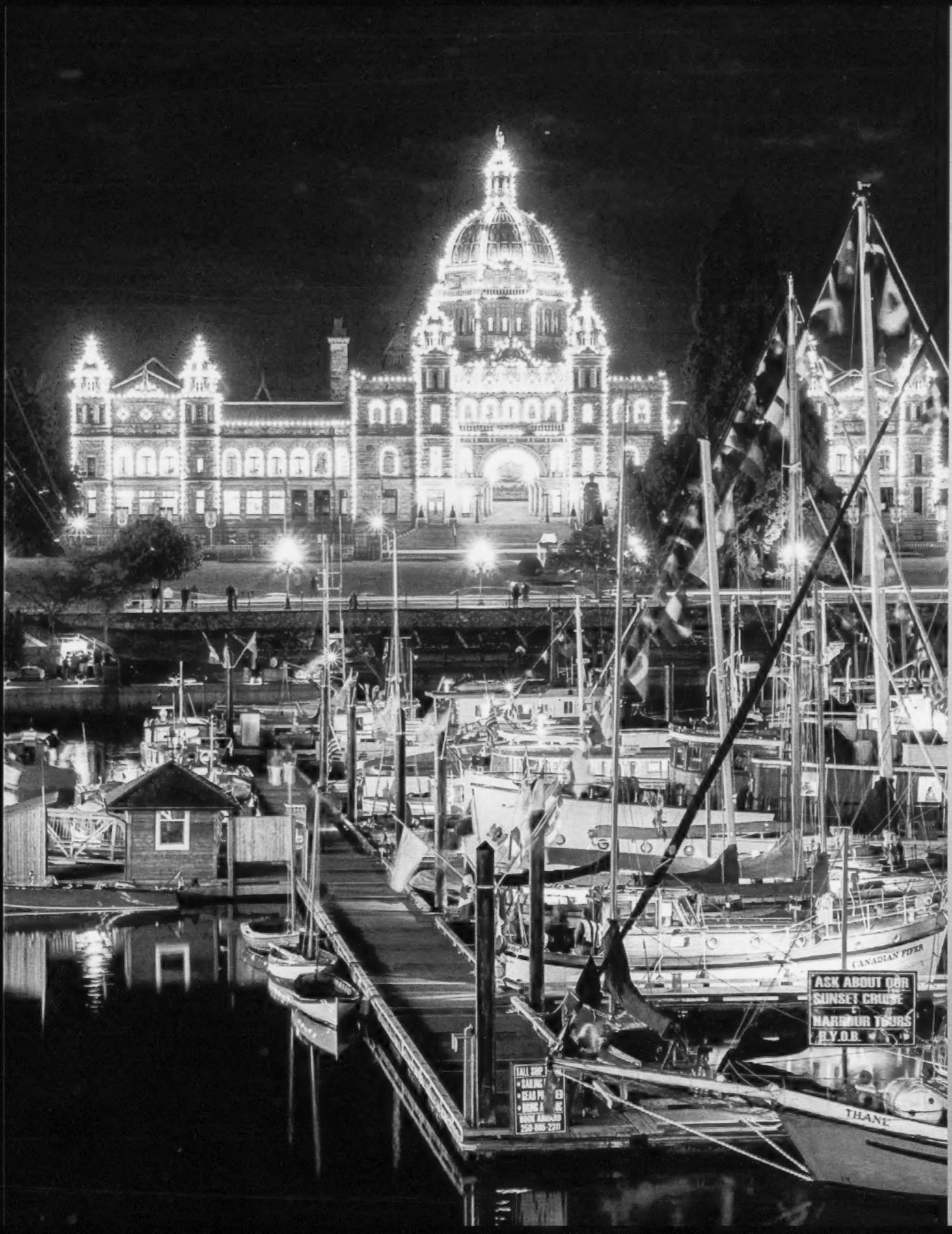
- 100% of reconsideration decisions are made within time frames.
- 1.3% Expected to Work caseload as a per centage of the population aged 19-64
- 5.7 months clients with employment obligations receive assistance (months).
- Baseline plus 2% active claimants of employment program of BC that receive case management services.
- 30% employment program of BC case managed clients who receive employment and/or community attachment.
- 100% of applications for Persons with Disabilities designation completed within Ministry timelines.
- 14.2% of Persons with Disabilities cases with declared earnings.

Office of the Premier

- 100% Performance agreements in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers.
- BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer in British Columbia.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- 91.5% of projects that meet their budget and schedule.
- $5.47 billion cumulative completed provincial strategic investment in Pacific Gateway supply chain infrastructure.
- 288 million annual transit ridership in BC.
- 93% rating of the maintenance contractors' performance using Contractor Assessment Program.
- 20% reduction from baseline in crash reduction after construction on safety improvement capital projects.
- Stakeholder satisfaction with existing Ministry services and delivery processes will be 4.1 (rated between 1 and 5).


ASK ABOUT OUR
SUNSET CRUISE
&
HARBOUR TOURS
B.Y.O.B.
CANADIAN FLYER
THANE

CANADA STARTS HERE

BRITISH COLUMBIA